

Session 2: Introduction to the Study of the Creation Account(s)

There is sufficient clearness to enlighten the elect, and sufficient obscurity to humble them. There is sufficient obscurity to blind the reprobate, and sufficient clearness to condemn them, and make them inexcusable. – Saint Augustine

Some Common Hidden Assumptions in the Creation Debate

Assumption #1: Because Genesis 1-2 clearly intends to teach us _____ about the creation of the cosmos means it must intend to teach us _____ about the creation of the cosmos.

Assumption #2: Because Genesis teaches about some things that can be studied _____ entails that Genesis must be teaching _____.

Assumption #3: Belief in evolution as a process that gave rise to at least some species entails belief in evolution as the “_____.”

Assumption #4: Belief that the genre of Genesis 1:1-2:3 is something other than _____ entails a denial that Genesis 1:1-2:3 is _____.

Assumption #5: Belief that science has correctly ascertained the apparent age of the earth entails a denial of the _____.

Assumption #6: Belief that science has correctly ascertained the apparent age of the earth entails a belief in an “_____.”

Man-o-logue: Which of these assumptions do you/have you held? Which (if any) do you believe to be valid assumptions? Are there other assumptions Christians tend to make about the nature of the creation accounts not listed here?

Some Common Views on the Creation Account(s)³

View #1: _____

View #2: _____⁴

View #3: _____

View #4: _____

View #5: _____ - _____ (or “_____”)

View #6: _____

View #7: _____

Man-o-logue: *In your opinion, which if these views are “in bounds” and which are “out of bounds” for someone who holds to the absolute truthfulness and authority of Scripture?*

³ These categories are a compilation drawn from Daniel J. Treier, “Creation,” in *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*, edited by Kevin Vanhoozer (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005), 144 and Mark Driscoll, *Genesis: Meditations on Moses’ Mosaic*, 16-18.

⁴ For a full treatment, see John Sailhamer, *Genesis Unbound* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 1996). See also the article “Science, the Bible, and the Promised Land: An Analysis of John Sailhamer’s *Genesis Unbound*,” by Matt Perman, posted on NHC Keystone website.

Suggested reading for next week's seminar discussion

Scripture to study: Genesis 1-2

Daniel J. Treier, "Creation," in *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*, edited by Kevin Vanhoozer (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005), 144-146

"The *SBJT* Forum: 'In the Beginning.'" Sections from D.A. Carson, Kirk Wellum and Todd Miles (pp. 78-87)

Bruce K. Waltke, *Genesis: A Commentary*, pp. 58-78

David Atkinson, *The Message of Genesis 1-11*, pp. 13-50

Worship: *All Creatures of Our God and King* Francis of Assisi (circa 1225)

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!

O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Ye clouds that sail in Heaven along,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou rising moon, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!

O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!

O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!